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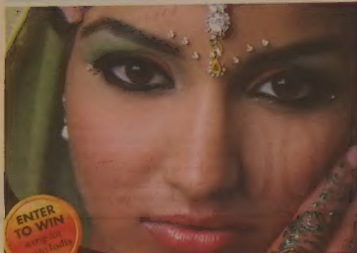


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DECEMBER 30, 2010
ISSUE 892

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3

OUTSIDE POLITICS

One man's entirely subjective view
of the year that was, 2010 Edition
Illustration by Fred Curatolo

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OUTSIDE POLITICS **MAURICE TOUGAS**
ONE MAN'S ENTIRELY
SUBJECTIVE VIEW OF THE YEAR
THAT WAS, 2010 EDITION

EDMONTON

It was civic election year in Edmonton, and for the 23rd consecutive election, the City Centre Airport was the central issue. It wouldn't have been, however, had it not been for the efforts of a well-financed pro-airport group called Envision Edmonton. Their attempt to petition the airport back to life failed when the petition was found to be legally lacking. Undeterred, Envision Edmonton put up a straw man candidate, David Dordard, to challenge Stephen Mandel. He was, as expected, crushed, and the airport question now seems to be permanently put to rest. But is it? The airport is the Walking Dead of Edmonton issues – until there are actual houses on that land, and the last chunk of runway has been carted away, save that "time of death" call.

When Edmontonians weren't bickering over the airport, they were debating a new arena for downtown. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Katz Group, the arena debate has progressed in stages, from "Do we need a new arena?" to "Do we need a new arena downtown?" to "Who's going to pay for the new arena downtown?" Owner owner Daryl Katz, through the kind of persistence that comes with having lots of money, has gotten pretty much everything he wants so far. By this time next year, I suspect the only question left to answer will be "What's the new arena going to look like?" – and Katz will have the answer.

Speaking of the Oilers, their obsessive fan base and media toadies went into overdrive of blather this year, with months of debate over who the Oilers should choose as their very first No. 1 draft pick. The debate raged between people who had never seen Tyler Seguin play, trying to figure out who had never seen Taylor Seguin play. In other words, it was a typically well informed sports debate.

The Eskimos, the former Cadillac of Canadian Football League franchises, looked more like the Chevy Nova of CFL franchises in 2010. After one of their worst starts ever, the club mercifully fired GM Danny Maciocia, replacing him with Eric Tillman, who came with his own set of baggage. And at year's end the team jettisoned head coach Richie Hall (a nice guy former defensive back who had never been a head coach before) and replaced him with Kavis Reed (a nice guy former defensive back who had never been a head coach before). That's right, Eskimo style.

Edmonton hosted the 98th Grey Cup game. The remains of the last missing Saskatchewan Roughriders fan was found only last week, a half-full can of Pilsner frozen to his lips.

ALBERTA



The Progressive Conservatives under Ed Stelmach survived the year, thanks mostly to the overwhelming majority that Albertans saw fit to give them in 2008. The PCs, however, did everything in their power to reduce their majority, maybe just to even the playing field a little. The year had barely begun when two Calgary MLAs, former cabinet minister Heather Forsyth and newcomer Rob Anderson, bolted the party for the welcoming embrace of Danielle Smith and the Wildrose Alliance. Polls put the Wildrose in the same league with the PCs, proving that Albertans may be willing to change governments, as long as it's a conservative government. Meanwhile, two organizations with similar names and ideas, Reboot Alberta and Renew Alberta, stirred the political pot by actually organizing and talking about changing Alberta's moribund political scene. From all that talk, a new political organization, the Alberta Party, held its first policy convention, and is preparing to field candidates in the next election to appeal to so-called 'progressive' voters who have become disenchanted with the Liberals and New Democrats. Alberta's political pie is going to get sliced into even smaller pieces.

And speaking of the old line progressive parties, an attempt at co-operation between the two perennial also-rans floundered when Liberal Leader David Swann's overture to the New Democrats was rebuffed, with extreme prejudice, by ND Leader Brian Mason. Die-hard New Democrats hate Liberals, so this courtship didn't even get to the hand-holding stage. That wasn't the only rejection suffered by Dr. Swann last year. Calgary MLA Dave Taylor quit the party, citing Swann's leadership, or lack there-

“BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR, I SUSPECT THE ONLY QUESTION LEFT TO ANSWER WILL BE ‘WHAT’S THE NEW ARENA GOING TO LOOK LIKE?’”

Canadian heroes (We all know who scored the winning goal in the gold medal hockey game between Canada and the U.S., but just try to name three other gold medalists. And Kevin Martin doesn't count – that was for curling, which is just barely a sport.)

The Olympics was a multi-billion dollar, 10-day show. But the Harper government found a way to spend about a billion dollars on a three-day show that was kept from public view. The Conservatives, in a blinding stroke of genius, held both the G8 and G20 summits in the same few days, in the same province. The billion-dollar photo op was born.

Then there was the pointless and ill-advised elimination of the mandatory long-form census, which was roundly denounced by everyone who knows anything about this kind of thing, and did tremendous damage to the reputation of Statistics Canada. Only in Canada would a census form become a national issue.

Harper also did his best to make the long-gun registry a national issue, a little stunt devised only for this political benefit. The registry survived, giving Harper more urban versus rural ammo. It was a win-win situation for him.

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean's term as GG was not renewed, ending a term that came perilously close to making the institution relevant. On the plus side, we'll never again have to figure out how to put those two little marks above the letter 'e' again. Remarkably, the Tories made an inspired choice in the new governor-general. What's His Name.

Students in Ottawa and raised such a ruckus over a speech by right-wing troglodyte Anne Coulter that she cancelled her talk in fear of his safety. And it also gave her oodles of publicity.

Sun Media obtained a licence for its own TV news channel, SUN news, which drew the inevitable comparison to Fox News. By sheer coincidence, the Sun newspapers ran a series of negative articles on the CBC that appeared for months. As I said, just pure coincidence.

THE WORLD

The presidency of Barack Obama began its inevitable mid-term death spiral in 2010. Americans – angry at the bailouts for big business, angry at the outrage of "socialized" medicine, angry at the war in Afghanistan, angry at the weather, angry at being angry – turned control of the House of Representatives over to the Republicans, drunk on whatever the Tea Party was serving. Obama signalled that he was going to stand his ground against the rampaging Republicans, for whom compromise is not in their vocabulary (literally – these people are not smart) by knocking under and extending a George Bush tax cut to the top two per cent of the population, at a cost of untold billions to the U.S. Treasury. Any more of this standing up to the Republicans, and Obama will become one of the better Republican presidents in recent history.

Two personalities dominated U.S. politics in 2010, neither of whom was an elected official. Sarah Palin – dumb as a sack of hammers and sly as a fox – ran her undeclared campaign for the 2012 Republican nomination via Twitter and Facebook. Americans were almost as fas-

of. Losing an MLA from a nine-member caucus hurts, but nobody was shedding any tears over the departure of the egotistical Taylor.

The oilands came under increasing worldwide attack in 2010. Rechristened 'dirty oil' by environmentalists (as opposed to 'clean oil', I suppose), the province's economic engine found itself under siege from all sides, including the air, after those daffy ducks just refused to stop landing on tailing ponds: Titanic and Avatar director James Cameron paid a visit to the oilands, and, apparently, cleaned up the mess single-handedly. A number of companies, attempting to jump on the enviro-bandwagon, announced they would not use products from the oilands, although nobody has quite figured out how to separate 'dirty oil' from every other oil.

CANADA

Prime Minister Stephen Harper started the year by proroguing Parliament to "recalibrate" the session. There was a brief flurry of anti-proroguing protest across the land, then the whole thing fizzled when it became clear that most Canadians care not a whit about the House of Commons.

Own the podium? Well, sure, we own the podiums. We hosted the Olympic games, so of course we owned them. The Winter Olympics, an orgy of patriotic imagery played out in the beautiful background of Vancouver, was a huge success, despite the distinct shortage of snow. An instant Canadian hero was born when Canada won our first Olympic gold medal on Canadian soil. Quick now, what was his name? Hey, I can't remember either – such is the nature of

Lots Of Sex During Wartime Means More Boys?

STRAIGHT DOPE: CECIL ADAMS
STATS AREN'T STRAIGHT
DOPE'S FAVOURITE
PASTIME, BUT EVERYONE
LOVES A GOOD STORY

A colleague recently told me that after wars, the male-female ratio at birth increases. I looked around and found several articles mentioning the phenomenon but none explaining it. Any truth to this? — Edgard

Your columnist hates these statistical questions, but not because I have a problem with statistics. On the contrary, I regard numbers with a love that's holy and pure, although I do get a little uneasy thinking about closely fitting my data to a curve.

My beef is with statisticians. These people happily fill pages with tables, Greek letters, and terms like *Dawn of the Dead*. Then the next guy comes along and says Mr. Auto-correlation used the wrong data set, the schmuck. So you'll forgive me if I don't offer a definitive answer, but instead merely describe the current confused situation. Let's take it step by step.

1. The natural sex ratio is about 1.1. Duh, you say. Come now — every schoolboy knows you could maintain

the species with a handful of males to service the available females, and most would be happy to try. In the real world, however, the forces of natural selection militate in favor of roughly equal numbers of girl and boy babies. This is called Fisher's principle, after Ronald Fisher, the English biologist and statistician who explained it all in 1930.

2. The observed sex ratio at birth isn't in fact 1:1, but more like 105 males to 100 females. Good thing. What with car wrecks, power tool accidents, and other masculine mishaps, the ratio declines to 1:1 during adulthood.

3. Even the 105:100 ratio is a pretty loose approximation. The actual number can vary from 103 to 107, sometimes more widely, from region to region and year to year. One alleged variation, getting back to your question, is that more boy babies are born after a war. The simplest explanation for this comes from the 18th-century German demographer and theologian Johann Süssmilch, who proposed that God was compensating for soldiers who got killed.

4. Among the more recent proponents of the war-equals-additional-boys effect are Jan Graffelman and Rolf Hoeksra. In a 2000 study they analyzed birth data for the U.S. and

selected European countries from the mid-1800s onward, focusing on the First and Second World Wars. Verdict: there was an uptick in wartime and postwar male births in eight of ten belligerent countries, but it was small — just 0.15 per cent. This works out, for example, to 950 extra boys in the Netherlands in 1942 and 1,800 extra boys in France in 1943. Considering the tens of millions slaughtered over the period under study, you have to ask: who gives a fluke about a few births?

5. At this moment of ennui, we happened on a 2009 paper by geneticist William James, who was more our kind of guy. He pointed out that sex ratio trend slowly but significantly up and down over extended periods of time for reasons nobody really understands. So if you look mainly at the long sweep of history, short-term fluctuations get lost in the weeds.

Better to compare wartime and postwar periods with the immediately adjacent years. The best way to do that wasn't complicated technical analysis à la Graffelman and Hoeksra; rather, you just needed to eyeball the graphs.

6. With that in mind, James proceeded to review numerous conflicts. You're wondering about the effects



of the Russo-Swedish war of 1789 to 1790? Birth ratio-wise, it didn't do squat. Likewise for the Napoleonic wars, the Franco-Prussian war, etc. In fact, just about the only conflicts clearly marked by fluctuations were (a) the First World War and Second World War, where the male birth ratio went way up in some countries, and (b) the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, where in Iran it went way down — in fact more girls were born than boys.

7. An ordinary person might think: this is a fatal flaw in my hypothesis. Not James. He reasoned that when the sex ratio jumps either way, that's something we need to explain.

Dismissing poor nutrition, birth order, maternal age, and other dull factors, James propounded an explanation with more entertainment value: couple rate.

Briefly put, if couples have frequent sex when the male is home on leave, or during the giddy celebration at war's end, the result — for reasons having to do with the timing of conception during the menstrual cycle — is more baby boys. Meanwhile, he blamed the low male birth ratio in Iran on maternal stress, which apparently leads to more miscarriages of boys. A supporting data point: the male birth rate in New York dropped in the wake of 9/11.

Interesting, but the impartial observer is obliged to say that if war-time birth ratios sometimes go up, sometimes go down, but mostly stay the same, the obvious explanation is that this so-called phenomenon doesn't really exist. But how much fun is that? Cecil sympathizes with James's approach: when faced with uncooperative data, get out there and dance.

Send questions to Cecil via straightdope.com or write him c/o Chicago Reader, 11 E. Illinois, Chicago 60611. Subscribe to the Straight Dope podcast at the iTunes Store.

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January 8 & 9 2011

SEND US ANOTHER OIL BOOM — WE PROMISE NOT TO PISS IT AWAY AGAIN

While it's too soon to break out the champagne, several bits of good financial news are popping up after two years in the so-called Great Recession.

National rental vacancy rates went down slightly this year, the stock market is improving, and retail sales in Alberta are the best in the country. Most importantly for our best in the woods, crude oil broke \$90 a barrel earlier this month.

Alberta's boom and bust economy has some major downsides, and Alberta needs a new plan for diversification and better stewardship of our natural resources so that the province is better prepared for the next bust. During this last bust, the province has been able to dip into the Sustainability Fund to cover the projected \$5 billion deficit. However, if the recession continues for several years, or if the province experiences years of small ups and downs, the fund will eventually dry up.

Every time we hit a downturn, Albertans say it's going to be different next time around. During the recession of the 1980s, there were bumper stickers reading: "Please God, send us another oil boom. I promise not to piss it away again." It's something of a provincial pastime — riding the highs and lows of our economy like a cowboy on the back of a bucking greenhorn — but there's no need to perpetuate these stereotypes.

Saskatchewan has played its resource economy cards well. Although our neighbours to the east have a smaller economy, their potash-based income is stabilized by more business diversity and Saskatchewan may likely outperform petro-centric Alberta in the coming year. Investing in other forms

of energy, such as wind and solar, could be one way to diversify. Investments in technology, education, and the cultural sector during boom times could also help keep people and businesses in the province when the crash inevitably comes around again.

Development in the Fort McMurray region also needs a more steady, sustainable approach, for the province's social, environmental and economic health. The recent move by oil companies to work together on tailings pond reclamation is a good sign, but it's only a first step. Plans for cleaning up the existing and future environmental damage should be prepared in advance, well before the province faces even more pressure to develop from an increasingly heated economy.

This time around, there could be some really obvious differences. While Alberta remains a one-party state, there were encouraging signs of political climate change. The emergence of the Wildrose Alliance as the party of choice for thousands of Albertans is a little disturbing, but the party has shaken up the status quo, which is a positive. Better yet, Albertans from across the political spectrum got together to talk seriously about politics, resulting in the Alberta Party positioning itself as a thoughtful, centrist party. Whether they will have any impact in the next election, expected in March 2012 (but don't be surprised if Premier Ed Stelmach conceals an excuse for an election if the economy does indeed improve significantly in 2011), at least we're talking politics, and thinking about the future of the province.

So please, economic gods, send us another boom, because we again promise not to piss it away.



2010 (cont'd from p. 3)

cinated by her as they were by Glenn Beck, the possibly deranged "commentator", whose nightly Fox News show is an intriguing brew of fiction and fiction. Beck famously held a rally in Washington in front of tens of thousands, where he proclaimed "America today begins to turn back to God." God's opinion on this matter is unrecorded.

• Britain held an election, and came up with its first minority parliament — or "hung" (snicker, snicker) as they call it — for the first time since 1974. David Cameron is the new PM, and he immediately set about trying to dismantle the British welfare state. Jolly good luck with that.

• In the U.K., Greece and elsewhere, governments introduced severe austerity measures in the face of ruinous deficits. In the U.K., students rioted over increased college tuition, even roughing up a limo containing Prince Charles and his wife Camilla. They were not amused. In Greece, thousands protested when the government ordered its residents to actually start paying taxes.

• When people weren't rioting, the planet was. Nearly 260,000 people died in natural disasters in 2010, most of whom died in Haiti's catastrophic earthquake. Elsewhere, volcanic ash from the Iceland's Mt. Tongue-Twister — also known as Eyjafjallajökull — caused worldwide air traffic disruptions. And climate change deniers were not quite so

loud in 2010, particularly in light of Russia's killer heat wave, where the temperature hit a Russian record of 44C.

• British Petroleum's offshore oil, Deepwater Horizon, blew up, spewing 4.9 million of gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The underwater camera that aired footage of the gushing oil proved to be at least as interesting as Dancing with the Stars.

• But it wasn't all bad news. The amazing rescue of 33 Chilean miners, trapped underground for 69 days, was the good news story of 2010. OK, maybe the ONLY good news story of 2010.

CULTURAL STUFF

• Apple introduced the iPad to Canada. Once again Steve Jobs created a product for the masses that we didn't even think about before, but now can't live without.

• '24' signed off for the last time, leaving the world still not safe from terrorists. On the plus side, maybe we'll never see Elisha Cuthbert again.

• The series finale of 'Lost' leaves fans asking the question of what the hell was that?

• Conan O'Brien is fired by NBC, getting more publicity than he got when he was hired by NBC. Poor Coco got \$30 million from NBC to go away, surely the highest paid martyr in history.

• The World Cup briefly gripped

North America, turning millions of usually soccer-ignorant sports fans into instant soccer experts. ("I thought the Uruguay-Ghana match was sublime.")

• Oscars and Grammys were given out. At least, I assume so. Who remembers?

CURTAIN CALLS

• J.D. Salinger, author of The Catcher in the Rye. My favourite book of all time. And I'm not being a phony about that.

• Bob Guccione, founder of Penthouse and the man responsible for the phrase "Dear Penthouse: I never thought this would happen to me..."

• Dennis Hopper, actor, director, reformed wildman.

• Tony Curtis, toupee wearer.

• Chris Haney, co-creator of Trivial Pursuit, and the answer to the question: "Which Canadian invented one of the world's most popular games, resulting in thousands of Canadians trying to create the next world's most popular game?"

• Leslie Nielsen (Dr. Rumack), Peter Graves (Capt. Oveur) and Barbara Billingsley (live lady) from the film classic Airplane! all died this year. Watch your back, Robert Hays.

• Art Clokey, creator of Gumby and Pokey.

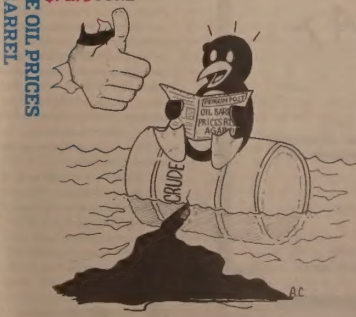
• Gary Coleman, actor. "What you talking about, Death?"

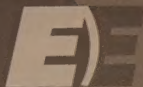
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BY THE NUMBERS • ECONOMIC WATCH

Crude oil prices broke the \$90 per barrel mark in December, the first time since 2008.

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DINING • REVIEW

Digesting The Year That Was



THE 2010 SMORGASBORD OF
EDMONTON'S SPICY
EATS AND DELICATE TREATS

BY SCOTT LINGLEY

Eating my way through 2010 in Edmonton was, as always, a varied and generally satisfactory experience, which was enriched by the arrival of various newcomers to the local dining-out scene. Now that the year

has drawn to a close, I'm apt to indulge in the custom of revisiting the highlights of the year in restaurants and passing along my insights, for whatever those are worth – it's not for me to assign value but, as you've probably already remarked to your editor, the newspaper you're holding is distributed free of charge.

The selection of African restaurants available to Edmontonites has steadily increased over the past couple of years and January offered the opportunity to hit Habesha (9515-118th Ave.), a comely Ethiopian place. Their Wednesday night vegetarian buffet (\$15) is a great way to try a broad variety of meat-less African dishes including stewed greens, carrots and potatoes simmered in garlic and spices, lentil stew, chunks of potato in spicy gravy, and cabbage and carrots stewed with turmeric, all served with the spongy, fermented flatbread called injera, which serves as both platter, utensil and staff of life.

Fadi Boustian, scion of a Montreal-based Lebanese food dynasty, had been in Edmonton less than a year when we visited his eatery, Dahlia's Bistro (10235-124th St.) last February, but we felt like he was welcoming us to the neighbourhood with what my perennial co-diner swears is the best shawarma in town. It's the real thing – your choice of meat imbued with garlic and whiffs of vinegar and cinnamon, slathered with hummus, tomatoes, onions and pickled turnip in a crisp-grilled pita. Their lentil soup and Mediterranean salads are also outstanding.

A March blizzard sent us in search of comfort food, which we located in abundance at The Dish (12417 Stony Plain Rd.), where their hearty lamb stew, permeated with rosemary and

white wine, staved off the chill. Try to leave room for their fancy bread pudding, a warm, supremely sweet and creamy example of the form drizzled with caramel and topped with simmered raspberries, with vanilla ice cream.

April saw us make a last visit to the wonderful Oriental Veggie House (10586-100th St.), a pioneering vegetarian restaurant that taught Edmonton to love mock meat for well over a decade. Little did we suspect we were enjoying our last serving of their beloved delicious curry lamb hotpot – chunks of faux-lamb, melting potato cubes, carrots, sprouts and bok choy in a turmeric-intensive curry gravy with just a hint of coconut. It was just one reason we were sad to see them close their doors for good a few months later.

May renewed hope with a fabulous meal at Culina Highlands (6509-112th Ave.) that featured their amazing lamb kofta, large grilled ovens of Mediterranean-seasoned ground lamb slathered with horseradish-cilantro cream and served over couscous and sided with a relish of cucumber and peppers. This was certainly the beginning of a beautiful friendship, one expedited by a judicious selection of wines.

A lazy evening in the June sun shine prompted us to order from long-standing purveyor of Malaysian delicacies Tropika (14921 Stony Plain Rd.) Our quasi-vegetarian feast featuring the flaky flatbread known as roti canai (\$4), some sayur kari (\$13) – carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and fried tofu simmered in a mild curry sauce – and an order of the adorably named sambal buncians (\$14), a spicy platter of green beans and prawns cooked in chili paste and coconut milk.

In July we welcomed the return of perennial Edmonton restaurateur Sam Tabet and his Café Beirut (10812-82nd Ave.), a small but mighty eatery where he demonstrates his mastery of Lebanese regional cuisine. The mezza platter for two, which features eight dishes for sharing, showcases Lebanese standbys like falafel, shawarma and hummus pita along with lesser known dishes like yabrek (stuffed grape leaves), musaka (baked eggplant), mujaddara (lentils with caramelized onions). Made to order from scratch, the food is a delight for vegetarians and omnivores alike.

In August, we voyaged to Montreal for a pilgrimage to Schwartz's Hebrew Delicatessen for a taste of their legendary smoked meat sandwich, a concentrated beef experience that seems to fall apart on the tongue. Match it up with the perfect sour pickle, tart and crunchy cabbage slaw and house-cut fries,

2010 EATS cont'd on p. 7

1st Course
BUTTERMILK
POTATO SOUP
BROOKLYN LAGER



2nd Course
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HIDDEN NINJA: FISH GRWIKOWSKI
YOUNG PUNKS AND OLD
HANDS ALIKE ARE FORGET-
TING THE BASICS WHEN
THEY GO OUT DRINKING

Another year converted to kitchen empties, and looking through the mess the ugly tendency emerges. It seems people like you and me are getting bad at tipping. I keep hearing. In some places, half the customers don't bother with gratuities at all. That's not a directly scientific figure, but even the hint of this kind of downturn is embarrassing as a cultural impression, especially with a parting shot of Yukon jackass attitude.

The better-off that that way by being cheap, it's true. There's actually nothing wrong with this, far as I'm concerned — up to the point where you start fucking people over who bring you your food or third beer, drive you home, cut your hair, whatever, most of whom rely on your gratitude for the bulk of their income. It's an understood cultural contract. Or rather, was.

One friend, remaining anonymous due to an understandable terror of repercussions from polar directions, tries to understand both sides.

"Easy money is the general perception of what it is to work in the bar industry," the multi-year pintslinger says. "I've overheard a guy saying to his buddy that he doesn't tip because he knows the people serving him are making enough as it is. A wad of cash in hand at the end of a shift — it's supposedly the trade off for working in a loud, crowded environment full of people perhaps not at their best selves for the night."

Pub life moves in cycles, my friend says. Regulars getting mar-



PHOTO SUPPLIED

ried or simply moving away from all the bright lights. The gap quickly filled by kids who, used to getting constantly screwed by shitty Jasper Avenue nightclubs in every way possible, either don't notice or care they are no longer on the puke-and-tits midway.

"Every decade or so, a new crop of wide-eyed 18-year-olds appears and the education and grooming cycle begins again. You teach them how to order, how to treat the place, and in subtle ways you let them know that the service they get and the kind of experience they will have will depend largely on how they treat the place and the staff. This makes sense.

"Only it doesn't lately. It would be easy to blame the naivety of this new crop of novice drinkers, and certainly that's part of what's going on, but the fact of the matter is that people of all ages simply aren't tipping as much anymore, not even close."

It's not just the kids, Grandpa Simpson.

I know, I know. There's a recession going on. You're a poor student. It's hard enough to make ends meet on your own. Booze is getting more expensive every time a politician opens his mouth. Cabs went up. Thing is, though, if you can afford to come out and have a few drinks, you can afford to pass a small slice of that along. Beer sales are down, it's true, but tips are plummeting faster. If the place you're at is too expensive, go somewhere that doesn't chisel you. Why punish the staff?

Oh, and for the record, you're hearing this from someone who subscribes to cold meritocracy. If that

cabbie is intentionally slowing down to catch the yellow or your table is not getting the attention of the one next to you full of hunky firefighters, absolutely dollar-vote your rights to the forefront. But have the gentleman balls to explain why you're holding out. Besides the fact you might learn something and connect with another human being, as inconvenient as this may be for your nickel collection, it's a lot better than busting some bullshit excuse as to why you can't even pass a coin along. You really want to be that person?

Fact is we're talking about the spirit of the law instead of the letter. You don't HAVE to tip, and good luck to any bar or restaurant imbedding a service charge. It's simply not the way our part of the world grew up. But we have a system.

I keep hearing anecdotes of shitty owners and bosses — one guy I know was actually physically abused by management and walked off the job immediately, thank hell.

But it's really the slow, structural problems, not even the money but the stubborn will that's making me wonder if we're actually this stupid or, I hope to Christ not, intentionally turning ourselves into unliking Romans, boasting feelers of no empathy. Go ahead, then, I guess. Make your stingy, predictable excuse. Yell about how you and ONLY you have the right to complain or be an asshole. Only take pride in situations where you come away with the most.

"I see your face every week, you see mine," my friend says, sighing. "But apparently there's no exchange."

(\$19) with peppers, basil, pineapple, red grapes and cashews served our snow-swept souls.

LIT Wine Bar (1032-104th St.) rounded out the year with gorgeous wine (try the Fines Parker Syrah!) and an appetizer feast that featured asparagus spears wrapped in prosciutto and veal in marsala glaze, huge, juicy scallops seared with Galiano, carpaccio (thin slices of raw tenderloin over greens with red pepper aioli) and some of the best calamari I can remember.

And did I mention the wine? Their gnocci in tomato cream sauce with lobster tail is also worth trying.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR,
THANKS TO EVERYONE
FOR A GREAT 2010!

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2010 EATS (cont'd from p. 6)

washed down with the syrupy-sweet black cherry soda, and you'll find yourself momentarily forgetting how massively you're outstripping your daily recommended intake of fat, cholesterol and sodium.

We finally got around to visiting Narayanni's (1031-81st Ave.) in September, eager to sample what the fuss was about. Their generous South African-style Indian buffet was a revelation, comprising fresh, mostly organic ingredients and lighter than usual dishes (no heavy sauces here) that let the flavours of the featured ingredients — from braised green bananas to dry-rubbed chicken thighs

— shine, albeit with a subtle cayenne tingle.

The arrival of MRKT (10542 Jasper Ave.) added a smart dining room, friendly and attentive service, and mouthwatering dinner menu on to the downtown dining scene. Their grilled skirt steak (\$17), slathered with a garlic-ginger onion puree and served with sweet potato croquettes made October a memorable month for eating out.

November had us dreaming of a sandy beach on the Gulf of Thailand by way of escape, but time and money constraints led us instead to Sukhothai (11525-104A Ave.), where the roasted duck in red curry

NEW YEAR'S EVE PLANS

Celebrate Good Times

IF LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, YOU WAITED UNTIL
THE LAST MINUTE TO MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S
EVE PARTY PLANS — HERE ARE SOME POINTERS!

NEW YEAR'S PARTIES IN E-TOWN

BY ANDREW PAUL

It's time to rock out with your clock out.

The countdown to 2011 has started and that means it's party time.

There's plenty to do in Edmonton on New Year's Eve and once again *SEE* Magazine swoops in to help narrow down the long list of soirees, shindigs and sock hops going on around town.

The only thing we ask is that you don't drink and drive. Which won't be a problem thanks to ETS. All public transit is free from Dec. 31 at 8 p.m. until Jan. 1 at 3:30 a.m. Of course, if you're feeling charitable any money dropped in the fare box will be given to the Donate-a-Ride campaign to help other partygoers get home safely.

So grab your date and your posse and check out this list of 30 hot spots to ring in the New Year.

Artery (9535 Jasper Ave., 780-441-6966) Sideponytail and BBW present Grand Illusions alongside a line up of DJs including DJ Illus Senor Cholo and DJ Knuckleboom. www.theartery.ca
Art Gallery of Alberta (7 Sir Winston Churchill Square) The Little Black Book Inc., Urban Soiree. Tickets: \$130 at Tix on the Square 8 p.m. www.youraga.ca
Avenue Theatre 9030 - 118 Ave) New Year's Bash featuring The Scale Breakers, Kroyle and Ninelives, Billy Black Out, Brothers Grim, and H-Town. No Minors.

Black Dog Freehouse (10425 Whyte Ave., 780-439-1082) Count down to the New Year with a chance to win door prizes including snowboards, skis and a trip to two of the mountains. Live music featuring Bombchan. www.blackdog.ca

Blues on Whyte (10329 Whyte Ave., 780-439-5058) Live music featuring Russell Jackson and George Taylor. www.bluesonwhyte.ca

CBC Centre Stage (123 Edmonton City Centre) Free concerts by The Command Sisters, Kayla Patrick and Ky Babyn. www.eventedmonton.ca

Century Casino (3103 Fort Rd., 780-451-8000) Live music featuring Honeymoon Suite. www.cnty.com

Comic Strip (Bourbon Street West Edmonton Mall, 780-483-5999) Buffet dinner and stand up comedy featuring Rob Little. www.thecomixstrip.ca

Bank Ultra Lounge (10765 Jasper Ave., 780-420-9098)

DJ set featuring Sean Tyas. www.thebankultralounge.com
Churchill Square NYE Party Street Dance starting at 9 p.m. featuring Lizzy Hoyt, Blackboard Jungle and Soulbah Fyah. Fireworks at midnight. www.eventedmonton.ca/nyed.php

Delta Edmonton South Hotel (4404 Gateway Blvd., 780-420-1757) Hot Latin DJs lay down the beats as part of the 11th Annual Latin New Year's Eve. **The Docks** (13710 - 66 Street, 780-235-5113) Black and White Masquerade Ball.

Edmonton Event Centre (West Edmonton Mall) DJ sets featuring the Internationals, Easy Love and the Baby Yu. www.edmontoneventcentre.ca

Expressionz Cafe (9938-70th Ave., 780-437-3667) Live music featuring Campus Thieves and Scenic Route to Alaska. www.expressionzcafe.com

Filthy McNasty's (10511 Whyte Ave., 780-432-5224) Dress in your old prom outfit, if it still fits, for this Retro Prom Night party. filthymcnastys.ca

On the Rocks (11740 Jasper Ave., 780-482-4767) Live music featuring Five on the Side. www.ontherocksedmonton.com

Overtime Broiler and Taproom (10304-111th St.) Featuring DJ Kwale and Harman B.

Haven Social Club (15120A Stony Plain Rd., 780-756-6010) Louisiana-style Cajun buffet and live music featuring members of the James Murdoch Band and Le Fuzz. www.thehavensocialclub.com
Hudsons (5 Edmonton Locations) Half-way to Canada Day NYE Party. Dress to impress. Team Canada jerseys optional. www.hudsonsonstaproom.com

Hydeway (10209-100th Ave., 780-426-5381) Finger food, snacks and a glass of complimentary champagne with three live bands and the Kids are OK DJs. www.thehydeway.org

Jekyll and Hyde Pub (10209-100th Ave., 780-426-5381) Live music featuring Headwind. All proceeds will be donated to Santa's Anonymous. www.jekyllandhydepub.com

L.B.'s Pub (23 Alans Dr., St. Albert, 780-460-9100) New Year's Eve Extravaganza featuring live music by Paula Perro and No Foolin'. www.lbpspub.ca

Level 2 Lounge (11607 Jasper Ave., 780-447-4495) DJ sets featuring Groovy Cuvy, David Stone, Neelze, Josh EP and many more.

McDougall United Church (10025-101st St., 780-428-

1818) Live music featuring Bill Bourne, Karla Anderson, Mike Lent, Back Porch Swing and many more. www.mcdougallunited.com

Pawn Shop (10551 Whyte Ave., 780-432-5058) Live music featuring Mass Choir, Dreamface Sister Gray and Arias. www.pawnshoplive.ca
The Pint (10125 - 109 St, 780-497-7468) Countdown to NYE with The Pint. www.thepint.ca

Red Piano (Bourbon Street, West Edmonton Mall, 780-486-7722) Black and White Affair featuring a burlesque and duelling piano show with a complimentary glass of champagne. www.theredpiano.ca

Rendezvous Pub (10108-149th St., 780-444-1822) Live music featuring Necronaut and guests.

River Cree Resort and Casino (E Lapotac Boulevard and Whitemud Road, 780-484-7121) Turkey and prime rib dinner with live music featuring the Gong Show. www.rivercreecasino.com

Rusty Reed's House of Blues (12402-118th Ave., 780-451-1390) Five-course dinner and live music featuring the Rusty Reed Band and Bobbie Cameron. www.rustyreedshouseofblues.com

Shade 105 (10148-105th St., 780-761-0105) Magic show featuring illusions by Michael the Magician. www.shade105.com

Shaw Conference Centre (9797 Jasper Ave., 780-451-8000) Dance music from DJs Deadmau5, Showtek and Skrillex.

Sir Winston Churchill Square Main Stage Free concerts by Blackboard Jungle, Lizzy Hoyt and Soulbah Fyah. www.eventedmonton.ca

Stanley A. Milner Library Theatre (7 Sir Winston Churchill Square, 780-496-7000) Free concert by Marco Claveria. www.epl.ca

Starlite Room (10030-102nd St., 780-428-1099) Live music featuring five bands including Raygun Cowboys and Whiskey Face. www.starlitteroom.ca

Treasury Vodka bar and Eatery (10004 Jasper Ave., 780-990-1255) Bottle service and a chance to win \$1,000 in cash and prizes. www.thetreasury.ca

Year End Bender (5 Separate Various Venue Pub Crawl) NYE Pubcrawls: 9 Different Bars, 6 Different Routes, 50 Buses. 5 p.m. check-in. www.newyearsrawl.com

Watch Me Crank Dat Souljah Fyah

A NEW YEAR WILL START OFF NICE AND WARM THANKS TO THE SOUNDS OF SOULJAH FYAH

SOULJAH FYAH

With Lizzy Hart and Skankboard Jungle
New Year's Eve Celebration
Friday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m.
St. Winston Churchill Square
Free Event

BY TRENT WILKIE

In the past few years, I've interviewed Souljah Fyah's Janaya Ellis several times for various publications. It is getting to the point where I talk to her so much that I may have to put her on my Christmas card list. With that in mind, to those on my card list, I apologize for this year's version. I thought the bacon was a good idea. It seems that paper does nothing to keep meat from going bad.

With Christmas behind us, it is now time for Ellis and the Fyah's to focus on the New Year's show at Winston Churchill Square. The show will have a family focus with a bevy of things for the young ones to do. So don't expect Ellis to be swilling whiskey and threatening the audience for a couple of reasons; it's not really part of Souljah Fyah's repertoire. That and the fact that Ellis is

very pregnant.

"It should be a Feb. 8 baby," Ellis says. "Being around music and being pregnant is wonderful because any vibration from an instrument elicits a response. But sometimes I feel a whole show go by and the baby sleeps, then after the show it is summersaults. And this show should be great. I know that thousands come out and that it's a huge family party. I love the fact that people can bring the young. We like to make the show a family one."

Ellis won't be imbibing or any of those types of shenanigans but not just because she is with child. As it turns out, New Year's is not her favourite time of year.

"I usually don't do anything," explains Ellis. "I've never been a New Year's person; it sort of makes me sad. It's a lot of weight on one day, I find. You are supposed to do something, but I've never done well with that. I like to do stuff every day. I live for every day as opposed to focusing on a few days a year. I guess it is the way we operate as humans; it's a marker of time, but time is passing by. It doesn't make for a balanced life. When I think about it, I think the most fun I ever had on New Year's was with my sister running down



Souljah Fyah are sure to bring the sun with them at Churchill Square! PHOTO SUPPLIED

Jasper trying to catch the fireworks. We were running down the middle of the road, there was nobody there and it was very beautiful ... that stuff to me, that is what memories are, not just the turn of the calendar."

It seems that the excess of the holidays makes New Year's a chance for a good lot of us to start over. In doing so, we may set our sights too high. I remember when I was seven my New Year's resolution was to finally teach my cat to fly off the roof of our house. After one unsuccess-

ful attempt and a quick visit to the veterinarian as well as the child psychologist, I realized that I was setting myself up to fail. Do we do the same things to ourselves?

"You can only do your best on any given day," Ellis says. "Some days you don't want to get out of bed and that should be OK. People give themselves way too huge a burden with all the 'from now on's' and 'I'm never going to's'. In moderation, that is where you will find success. We are very hard on ourselves and I include

myself in that category. If you don't give yourself credit for the little steps then you are expecting way too much for yourself. For most of us, what we are doing in our everyday lives is beautiful. There is a quote by Esther Hicks that I try to live by: 'I'm satisfied with where I am and eager for something more.' I think that some people have to overcome huge obstacles more than others and there is something beautiful for seeing an obstacle as a lesson."

I agree. Just ask my cat.



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LISTEN • BY FISH GRIWKOWSKY

Though we each hand-plucked our favourite moments and products last week, I still feel a residual guilt about not making a list of the top 100 or so albums like I used to do back in the golden days.

The consensus among my fellow DJs tends to be for new music, which you can blame on piracy or global warming or menopause or whatever you like. I keep playing ROKS's *Kick*, wondering where straightforward white man pop has shuffled off to — as influential as Pitchfork is and as equally predictable it is to slam them with the unimaginative "hipster" label, too many of the albums they recommend make me wonder if honkies even have sex any more.

But no matter, let me live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to my man, as the old poem goes. If the world is into melted potatoes about as much as popper, what the fuck do I care? Listen to the Decemberists if you like. Here are a few albums that make a difference to me this year, most of which had people at least dancing, dancing, to quote *Blood Meridian*.

Big Boi — *Sir Lucious Left Foot: The Son of Chico Dusty* (2010). This would be the album of the year, so let's start out with that. "Shutterbug" and "Tangerine" in particular follow the old rule, play music girls like and everyone else will follow. Funny, energetic, and ridiculously sexual, you know Andre Patton as half of Outkast and it's no surprise the man has Red Bull for blood. Just an amazing solo debut. Even a download song like "Follow Us" is full of so much imagination and bizarre noises you'll be dreaming of it long after the lights of the cities go out for good. I still don't know what the album title's about, but no matter.

The Believer Music Issue (B) — We Bumped Our Heads Against the Clouds (2010). Like Janelle Monáe made a number of these bunnies last year, and a baddy on this disc and the Big Boi, as if *A Beautiful Mind*'s John Nash was behind the curtain, pointing out the "coincidental" patterns between all things. M.J.A.'s "Tom Free" is also here (we'll get ill her), but this influential disc tells us we are in for a lot of kinetic "weirdo" rap next year, the antidote to my earlier rant. Especially awesome, Nina Simone's cover of Alice Cooper's "I Never Cry." I hope you can find this disc somewhere.

M.I.A. — *Maya* (2010). The stupid shit I read coming after this album filled me with pink rage, sudden accusations Mathang "Maya" Anugrahama was off course, writing dumb lyrics and so forth. Wake up, dinks — the girl has always been an insane baby-talker, half (if her charm, and writing an album entirely about the internet is a hilarious concept. I won't throw her to the lions yet.

RATT — *Infestation* (2010). Hard and heavy, dirty and mean. A surprisingly solid bit of late-career metal, maybe not on the level of Priest's "Painkiller," but perfect for any heavy.

Hobbs — *Wizard of Words* (2009). Hat's off again to Steven Hobbs and Dug Beavins for this quirky bit of autobiographical art. We played "Crazy Antics" every morning at North Country Fair and didn't even need drugs. It took five years or so for Steven Hobbs to pull this together, and I hope around 2014 we get another taste. Between this and the Frog's *My Daughter the Broad*, the only way to meet our mad world head-on is obvious: unhinged. With that in mind, have a good New Year's Eve!

CD • REVIEWS



THE SOFT BOYS

Underwater Moonlight

(No Not Records)

★★★★★

Strictly speaking, the Soft Boys stood alongside the best of the UK, punk and pop bands of the late '70s: Nick Lowe, Elvis Costello, The Boys. Songs like "Positive Vibrations," "The Queen of Evers" and title track, "Underwater Moonlight," absolutely sparkle with upbeat energy. But it's with all the bizarre jazzy bits ("Insanely Jealous") and more than a little psychedelia ("I Got The Hots, Old Penit") that the Soft Boys proved themselves to be so much more than *Underwater Moonlight*. Glimmering, twinkling guitars lace their way across a record that's stood the test of time (released originally in 1980), the second album from one of the most underrated groups of the era and the precursor to bandleader Robyn Hitchcock's prolific solo career.

ROBIN SCHROFFEL



SOULIYAH FYAH

I Wish

(Independent)

★★★★★

I won't suggest that somewhere there's a reggae cookie-cutter solidly manufactured to churn out song-after-song of stales, but reggae, perhaps more than any other genre, falls victim to tedious pattern. While the songs on *I Wish* warm souls like reggae is so wont to do, there is a bit too much of the tiresome reggae-standard shaggy rasta, skank-guitar, trippy-vocal reverb-method here than hoped. More than anything, it's the tired, yet undeniably chill tempo of reggae which seems to pain many an anti-reggae and on certain tracks on *I Wish*, I wish this wasn't so blatant. There is nothing directly wrong with the Juno-nominated band's latest, but songs like "8 Days of Summer" and "Tears of a Fool" sound uninspired. Where Souliyah Fyah really hit is when they confidently stray from the K-Tel Reggae sound and challenge the genre's confines, heard best on "Watch It Go" and "Freedom Seeker." Songs that break the mold, save the album.

CURTIS WRIGHT



AZURE RAY

Drawing Down The Moon

(Saddle Creek Records)

★★★★★

California's ambient duo Azure Ray returns after its seven-year disappearance from the record store shelves with a record that perfects the current, post-rock-esque trend of mixing a grassroots sound with electronic music. Somewhere in the same vein as Tegan and Sara (only a lot less poppy and dancy) and Tender Forever (but a lot less "look at me, I'm an artist" from Portland), Brenda Fink and Maria Taylor craft a record of well-written and enjoyable songs that don't imitate the current trends as much as innovate them. "In the Fog," is probably the best song on the record; the piano work on it is remarkable and the way the electronic ambient is mixed in is nothing short of brilliant. Saddle Creek Records has yet to put out a record that I don't like, and Azure Ray is no exception.

CHRIS SCHEMAN



GLASSER

Ring

(The Panther Sounds)

★★★★★

Glasser's Cameron Meslow eludes categorization. Debut *Ring* is filled with afro-tribal drum beats, squishy synth lines, and crisp, crystalline electro-soundscapes, yet even amidst all this it's Glasser's rich vocals that is the eye of the storm. Meslow glides on top of the systematically layered instrumentation, and for the most part it's a perfect match. Standout track "Mirage" unites pop-flavoured percussions and drizzling wind chimes with one of the most devastatingly gorgeous melodic lines of the disc, offering the listener nothing less than aural nirvana. This vocal virtuosity does, however, lead in the occasional subordination of the instrumentation; the xylophones of "Treasure of Me" work furiously overtime to create an atmosphere of Caribbean paradise only to be pulverized by the dream-like chorus. Even so, you'll find yourself lost in the tidal flux that is *Ring*, when the last lapping sound wave lets you go, you'll be quick to dive right back in.

CHRIS LIU



HAUSCHKA

Foreign Landscapes

(Not Not Records)

★★★★★


Hauschka is the alias of pianist and composer Volker Bertelmann based out of Düsseldorf. Dr. Seuss style names aside, *Foreign Landscapes* is an exercise in serious composing and some of the most interesting music I have encountered. If you have an imagination it plays like the soundtrack to an epic film. Put it on in the car when you go to get milk and all of a sudden you are heading to a meeting with clandestine spy or being chased by an international assassin. Instead of relying on sound effects or forced and organic strangeness, like some similar music, *Foreign Landscapes* uses original and unique arrangement to turn a classic string section and a few woodwinds into something dynamic and spooky. *Foreign Landscapes* sounds like a collaboration between Tom Waits and Danny Elfman or if Beethoven had wrote themes for PT Barnum.


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The Dream Game



One Big Night: Dreamface ring in New Year's at the Pawn Shop (PHOTO SUPPLIED)

GROWN FROM A KATY PERRY SONG, EDMONTON ROCKERS JOIN TO MAKE AN INTERESTING NEW PROJECT

DREAMFACE

With Masi Choe, Sofia Gray and Kasia,
Friday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.,
Pawn Shop
Tickets: \$10 on Next.Ner.ca, \$15 at the door

BYSEAN STEELS

A truisim of success in life and in music is that you never want to be caught with an empty wrench, at least according to Dreamface guitarist Daniel Carriere. But if that's the case, why is it just now that fans of his other group Ten Second Epic are hearing output from his new, pop-infused side project? The answer is a lot of conspiracy.

For more than a year now, Carriere and lead singer Jasmine Ming-Wai Mah have been quietly laying the foundations for Dreamface, a hypnotizing dream-scape of romantic guitars blended with palpitating dance rhythms. Oddly enough, it was a musical project intended for the voice of a different pop starlet that aligned the two conspirators.

"I got this one song together for the Katy Perry record, kind of a loose format, and I messaged Jaz, knowing she was a singer, to do the mock up for the demo to submit," Carriere says from their Allendale practice space in central Edmonton on a December afternoon.

"She comes down and completely rearranges the song. We crumpled it and started again. All of this, and we've got this Frankenstein of a song

What is it even? There's two singers. We said let's not give this away."

Thankfully, Carriere kept Ming-Wai Mah and the track, and the two began to assemble a lineup, recruiting drummer Ben Shillabeer from Social Code. They began trying to capture the magic of a one-off recording session on a full album of songs. Ming-Wai Mah and Carriere were obsessive about ensuring healthy growth for the budding project, and put the group underground for months of songwriting and preparation.

"It can't get too convoluted. If that's when the spark is, you have to try and finish it right then and there before intellect comes in and screws it all up," Carriere says.

"When Daniel and I write we try to use our inspiration and capture the emotions we're feeling. We try to make it organic and pure," Ming-Wai Mah explains. At the core of Dreamface, for both her and Carriere is a thirst for creative process, the moments of low inspiration, and integrity that drive the performing spirit.

"The one thing you want to hear in music is honesty. We're not sitting there deciding how to be clever. We're making songs because we got a chord progression and started dancing in the studio," Carriere says.

Even in conversation, the pair feed off an exuberant quality. Ming-Wai Mah, with her sparkling almond eyes and scattered thoughts, is very clearly in an artist's wonderland, grounded by Carriere's experience.

"Dan has a very structured, calculated way of working. I'm very in art world, being totally abstract, pulling ideas out of the sky. It's refreshing for him and he's very stabilizing for

me."

With preparations nearly complete and an album on the way, the two are also in the midst of promoting the video for their new song "Someone Else's Hand" which they shot recently in Toronto with Canadian Justin Broadbent, the designer/artist/videographer behind Metric's minimalist "Sick Muse" video.

Broadbent took the group on a frantic tour of Toronto's urban centre that at times confused the musicians, but always willing to suspend their skepticism for a fellow visionary, they went with it and have so far been pleased with the results.

Justin was completely random and elusive. We'd arrive at bus stops with blank ad boxes and ask him what was going on. He just sees something out of nothing and we didn't get it until we saw the actual pictures of us in these junky yards with enormous piles of metal," Ming-Wai Mah explains.

"He reminds me of the kind of guy who would paint his door to find his house," Carriere laughs. "He's got a Dreamface on at all times."

The pair is still hesitant to set any hard dates for a full length album or the video for "Someone Else's Hand", but admit they can't keep things pent up for much longer. With so many preparations, the only thing that remains to be seen is how fans of Ten Second Epic and Social Code will greet the side-project's less-than-tough musical direction. Luckily, a nose to the grindstone makes it hard to waste time with apprehension.

"We're not too worried," Carriere says. "I mean, who's selling records right now, anyway?"

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The Book Of The Year Club: A Literati Tale

THE BOOKS OF THE YEAR ARE REVEALED — YOU CAN READ THIS AND THEN READ THEM

BY JESSE LOCKE

The year 2010 yielded a bumper crop of books. A richness of reading! A landslide of literature! From established authors to newbie names, long-awaited sequels to bolts from the blue, there were enough teeth-sinkable titles in the last 12 months to satisfy any fans of the written word.

Perhaps the biggest release this year was Jonathan Franzen's freedom, the much-lauded follow-up nine years after his previous opus of familial dysfunction *The Corrections*. Originally previewed in a sci-

entific excerpt for *The New Yorker* back in June 2009, *Freedom* ended up figuratively and literally heavy, clocking in at 562 pages and following a similarly motley crew of mid-life crisis suffering souls. Nobody wades into the murky minds of the depressed like Franzen, but thankfully his cannily clever prose also provides bellyaches of black humor.

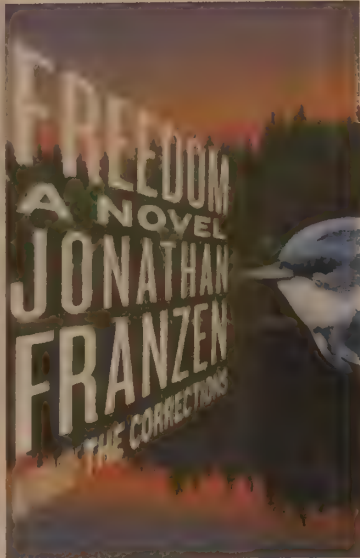
The legacy of the late, great David Foster Wallace gained an updated 2010 edition of his madcap, math-ematical research exploration *Everything and More: A Compact History of Infinity* (originally published in '03) with a new introduction from sci-fi author Neal Stephenson, jam-packed with Foster Wallace's trade-mark footnotes and non-sequit-

sidetracks, it takes the layperson from Aristotle to Cantor in a challenging read that — as always — richly rewards. Keep your eyes peeled in April 2011 when his unfinished swan song *The Pale King* will finally see publication.

Charles Yu brought a similarly obsessive interest to his second novel *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe*. Following the exploits of a time-travel repairman sharing his name, Yu twisted the edges of reality into a fantastical head-trip fit for sci-fi fanatics and tourists alike. Back on earth, first-time author Rebecca Skloot won legions of fans with *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, revealing the untold story of a poor African American mother of five whose cancerous cell samples led to some of the most important discoveries in modern science.

Irish author/playwright Emma Donoghue also surprised many with the success of her latest novel, *Room*, shortlisted for the Man Booker prize, Governor General's Award and No. 1 on the Top 100 Editor's Picks at amazon.ca. Told through the P.O.V. of a five-year-old boy named Jack held captive in a small room with his mother, it's as riveting and full of imagination as it is claustrophobic. Vancouver's John Vaillant brought his own chills to *The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival*, with a chaotic collision between man and beast in the Siberian wilderness.

Other unanimously popular best sellers included Swedish author Stieg Larsson's feminist revenge neo-noir *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, trilogy of which the third and final title, *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*, hit shelves this year. Meanwhile, Twitter-turned-book *Sh*t My Dad Says* had equal numbers in stitches with the cuss-filled words of wisdom of 73-year-old Sam Halpern. The sitcom adaptation starring William



Loved by the masses (and Oprah), it's *Freedom*. (PHOTO SUPPLIED)

cigarette butts, Keith Richards found time to pen *Life*, offering smirking insights into his decades as the Rolling Stones' gonzo guitarist.

On the other end of the non-fiction spectrum, fiery political commentator, war correspondent and current University of Toronto professor Chris Hedges continued raising eyebrows with *Death of the Liberal Class*, confronting recent changes in the American Democratic Party

enigmatic doodle collage mash-ups with *Picture This: The Nearest Thing*, while Keith Jones' *Catland Empire* was great for a very vibrant, surreal chuckles. However, the most surprising use of colour came from Charles Burns' *X-ed Out*, the Black Hole author/artist's first entry in a trilogy moving away his trademark black and white. Playing off Hergé's classic *Tintin* comics, Burns presented a bizarre-o world character named

FROM ESTABLISHED AUTHORS TO NEWBIE NAMES, LONG-AWAITED SEQUELS TO BOLTS FROM THE BLUE, THERE WERE ENOUGH TEETH-SINKABLE TITLES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS TO SATISFY ANY FANS OF THE WRITTEN WORD.



Shatner, however? Not so much. Dave Thompson's *How To Wreck A Nice Beach: The Voyager From World War II to Hip-Hop* was quite likely the coolest music book of the year, connecting Neil Young to Chrome to JFK while digging through the crates to unearth endless grooves. NYC poet-punk Pati Smith dined with *Just Kids*, her passionate love story/ode to photographer Robert Mapplethorpe while hip hop titan Jay-Z invited readers into his storied rise, weaving lyrics into a candid memoir with *Decoded*. Final

ly, when he wasn't killing plants with conversely controversial British atheist Christopher Hitchens wrangled his own share of feathers with *Hitch 22: A Memoir*.

For fans of graphic novels, Daniel Clowes crafted an innovative new style, with *Wilson*, integrating overlapping storylines for his sad-sack protagonist through multiple drawing styles and interconnected one-page narratives. Brace yourself for the same blunt, caustic humour and existential ponderings as his past masterworks *Ghost World* and *David Boring*.

Lynda Barry served up more of her

Nitrit, dancing between dreams and reality in a disorienting swirl.

Finally, before leaving life's stage in January, Toronto author-poet-musician Paul Quarrington published a quintessentially Canadian account of his years in the biz with *Cigar Box Banjo: Notes on Music and Life*. Best known as the author of *Whale Music*, King Leary and performing with his group *Porkbelly Futures*, Quarrington's misadventures are as entertaining as they are endearing.

With its accompanying CD, this fun and funny book is a fitting final bow.

Top 10 Movie Trends of 2010

The Other Avatar: *Avatar*: The Last Airbender proves 3 things: 1) Avatar isn't all about the blue, but about bizarre arrows on foreheads; too 2) There will be no more airbending; 3) M. Night Shyamalan's career has officially flattened. SUPPLIED

WHY SINGLE OUT INDIVIDUAL MOVIES WHEN WE CAN POKE FUN AT, ER...PROVIDE INSIGHTFUL COMMENTARY ON THEM IN SMALL GROUPS?

BY ANASTASIA ABRAMXAS

You probably haven't seen half the movies that will come to define 2010. That's ok, neither have I. Edmonton is not a 'select city' as determined by the cinemadrome gods, so the best Oscar bait hasn't yet charmed its way up the frozen North Saskatchewan.

That won't stop the onslaught of opinionated hacks from spit out TOP 10 lists of the year's best films.

But who needs another arts writer waxing prophetically about the films of the year when you can have an arts writer waxing prophetically about the year of films?

Here are the 10 ten trends of 2010:

1. **Thoughtful, genre-defying standouts surprised audiences.** Seemingly everyone loved the widely-released *Exit Through the Gift Shop* and *The Kids are All Right*. But, more impressively, the summer blockbuster season was dominated by *Inception* and its \$300 million domestic gross. *Can Contraception*, where interpid landlids delve deep into our pelvises to ransom genetic material, or *Reception*, in which Apple employees trundle down our central nervous system to install with hotspots, be far behind?

2. **Animation ruled, 3D drooled.** Beneath the like DreamWorks, Pixar and Disney put out *Tangled*, *Megamind*, *Toy Story 3*, *Despicable Me* and *How to Train Your Dragon*. All received critical adulation and, magically, drew audiences spanning every demographic. Up to and including *Avatar* last year, 3D was doing pretty well for itself, too. But in 2010, it suffered a string of disappointments, became bitterly disillusioned and finally signed up for an eHarmony account, worried

it would die alone like its unlovable cousin, Smell-o-Vision.

3. **Real heroes ousted super heroes.** *Kick Ass*, *Scott Pilgrim vs. The World* and *MacGruber* demonstrated that talent, natural ability and attitude proves shouldn't get in the way of donning a rad costume, saving the world and getting the girl.

4. **The death knell finally rang for M. Night Shyamalan's career.** The king of the twist ending felt the cruel twist of fate himself. *The Last Airbender* was a qualified turkey receiving positive reviews from just six per cent of critics on meta-site Rotten Tomatoes. *Devil*, in which Satan is trapped in an elevator with four unwitting dots, fared marginally better – perhaps because Shyamalan's kiss of death was limited to screenwriting, rather than directing credits.

5. **International movies focused on the traumas and triumphs of women.** On the one hand audiences were enraptured by Lisbeth Salander's exploits in the horrifyingly bleak and rapey crime drama trilogy starting with *The Girl Who With the Dragon Tattoo*. On the other, Julia Roberts' teeth did annoying rich white lady things in exotic locations in *Eat, Pray, Love*.

6. **Old people discovered they could do more on film than provide comic relief, spout wisdom and die.** Following a trend cherished by Michael Caine's compelling *Harry Brown*, 2010 proved that 60 is the new 35. Otherwise we wouldn't have Red, with fellow Anglo and sexy sexagenarian Helen Mirren. *The Expendables*, starring Sly Stallone, Dolph Lundgren, Mickey Rourke and HGH. *Get Low*, with Robert Duvall, *A Solitary Man* with Michael Douglas, or the charming ensemble cast of *Sex and the City 2*.

7. **Some stars didn't know how to say no to a project.** Casual racism, a my-pet-homo attitude and cross

consumerism were tired in 2008, but *Sex and the City* found a way to keep the magic alive in an even shittier instalment in 2010. Speaking of indulgent sluts trying to desperately recapture their youth and vitality, Adam Sandler let an entire generation down by making his friends participate in the circle jerk billed as *Grown Ups*.

8. **As foretold by the prophets of yore, the Internet and movies finally collided.** It was good and great. The good? *The Social Network* and *Catfish* mashed up life on and offline to chilling effect. The great? Netflix entered the Canadian market finally giving us something to watch during our endless winters besides re-runs of *The Beachcombers*.

9. **Documentaries paused, reflected and found their indignant side again.** In America, finger-wagging political diatribes came back in full force with *Inside Job*, *12th and Delaware*. 8. *A Mormon Proposition*. Client 9. *Rise and Fall of Eli*. *Spitzer* and *Casino Jack* (the documentary, not the Kevin Spacey kitsch fest). Locally, Trevor Anderson's tour de force *High Level Bridge* kicked ass from here to TIFF to Sundance. And much ado was made about *Dirty Old*, the tar-sands tarnishing flick which received a grant from the pitbull of our very own petro-state.

And finally at 10. **Sequels beat sequins.** Iron Man 2, *Shrek Forever After*, *Harry Potter* and *The Deathly Hallows*, *Twilight Eclipse*, *Jackass 3D*, *Saw 3D*, *Little Fockers* and a bunch of other disposable phoned-in ones somehow found ways to hang on in their audiences. Dance movies like *Burlesque*, *Step Up 3D* and *Turn the Beat Around* weren't able to borrow any eyeballs from *So You Think You Can Dance*, making the likelihood of *Showgirls 2* better than ever.



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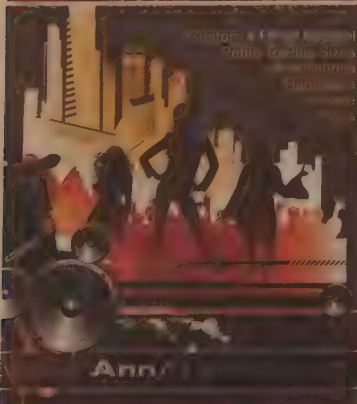


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ARTS PROFILE

The Handmade Tale



Check out Shaena Dean's online store at www.evenstarjewellery.ca | PHOTO SUPPLIED

**FROM RUNAWAY TO
SUCCESSFUL JEWELRY
DESIGNER - ONE WOMAN'S
INCREDIBLE JOURNEY.**

BY PIOTR GRELLA-MOZEJO

What a remarkable story! Barely a teenager, she decided to leave her household and ended up a street kid - but not the street kid one stereotypically imagines as a mentally challenged social cripple, neither a prostitute, nor a drug dealer, nor a sticky-fingered shoplifter. She was determined to build her own life - the right way.

Of course, I was aware of how tough it would be on my own while still a minor, and how easily everybody pass their judgment on us, then, she says, her voice laden with this specific, quiet yet potent satisfaction of having had a brush with hell and surviving it with dignity. But I was also aware of how damaging it would be to remain exposed to abuse by those among whom by default you should be able to find love and support.

So she left and moved in with a group of like youngsters, equally bent on pursuing a crime-free path towards a better future. Apparently there are an awful lot of them out there. Today, when everything is the way it should be, herself a successful artist and businesswoman - her husband also a former street kid whom she met early on and a very talented artist working in computer games - she can talk for hours, and

on the face of it without much emotion, about the cruel dioceses of the Canadian social services system, which very often pushes such young people to the verge of despair, even suicide, notwithstanding prostitution and drug dealing. One has to hear her story to believe and understand fully the cold, thoughtless indifference of that system, which perceives young persons not as human beings, but as mere pawns on a pseudo-legal chessboard drawn by good citizens who have no idea what it means to be abused and humiliated by one's own family.

She dreamed of getting her education and she got it, paying hundreds of dollars for each and every course she took. Not a cent was given, or even loaned, to help her deal with the usual every day basic needs. She paid from her own pocket, working odd jobs, but never ever doing anything she would come to regret. She is full of light and optimism, ready to give help to anyone who may require it. Surely her outstanding art's been influenced by her experience?

"Well," she laughs, "I like film noir, you know, and my Victorian designs are a lot of black, so you could say my earlier life is present in my art. But whose isn't? Every artist true to herself will be influenced by her experience. It's inevitable."

At some point she realized she wanted to design jewelry and craft it by hand.

"I started off by making decorative objects for 'medieval' weddings

leather armour, crowns and later on, Celtic motifs. All these are very popular with certain groups. Then I branched out into making cool, dressy English hats, hats with mini tops, outfits for Gothic 'Lolitas', plus a lot of steampunk stuff. As my self-confidence grew I began to make my own jewellery and, finally, in 2008 opened my online store, Evenstar Jewellery."

The business was expanding steadily and soon it became obvious she could sell other people's products, often by young artists without any foothold on the market.

"I'm a big fan of fair trade and will only conduct business that way. I bring in jewelry from countries as culturally diverse as Indonesia and Poland always paying the artists according to the widely accepted fair trade rules. I will never accept anything that'd be a product of child or slave female labour."

Also, I always set prices which reflect the amount of work involved plus minimal profit. This is why when I first offered my jewelry on Whyte Avenue, nobody wanted to buy. People did not believe things this inexpensive were made of real silver and real gemstones. Funny how it works in our society, eh? It's much better now though because the word of mouth got out I was in fact honest."

Her name is Shaena Dean and knowing her is an honour.

Zombie Love Reborn Again... And Again



A blood-thirsty scene from *Red Dead Redemption* | PHOTO: SUPPLIED



**NINETEEN DARREN ZENKO
SIMPLE ANTI-UNDEAD
COMBAT MAKES RED DEAD
REDEMPTION A HIT**

Red Dead Redemption was certainly my favorite game of 2010. It actually took the title with a bit of what, in sport, might have been seen as poor sportsmanship, or a least distasteful showboating: the contest already won, along came the "Undead Nightmare" expansion like a flurry of third-period goals to seal an already snug shutout.

Apologies for the hockey talk. It's cold, and I don't have the heart for zombie jokes. Honestly, as a gamer, I'm kind of tired of zombies in general. And with *The Walking Dead* marching another wave of everybody's favorite shambling metaphor into the mainstream — I overheard a heated barroom discussion on how to make it show up on TV in black-and-white, which you can do by sticking one of your RGB plugs in the composite jack — you'd think the last thing I'd get hot for would be yet another chance to head-shoot groaning cadavers. Yet there I was, the jaded zombie-skeptic, screaming like a particularly sexist (and agnostic) caricature of a little girl as the barrier of bullets between the zombies and John Marston's brains got steadily slimmer.

A large part of the success of "Undead Nightmare" is that it does not toil around. No gimmicks, no team-

work mechanics, no psychic powers, no postmodern twist beyond the default postmodernism inherent in the zombie mythos: just straight-up, white-knuckle anti-zombie combat. *Red Dead Redemption* was made for this, its beauty and polish and wonderful character and setting development aside, *RDR* is a drum-tight shooting game, and that's all either the Western-desperado or zombie-survival genre really needs. Undead Nightmare is the arcade game at the epic's heart, no "redemption," just red, red, dead, dead. And fun.

This is only possible because "Undead Nightmare" is an expansion to a game you've already (if you know what's good for you) played like crazy. You know the controls, you know the lay of the land, you know

how Marston moves and responds. You can jump in at a flat gallop, guns blazing, no kiddie-pool tutorial required. From the minute the first shambler shows up drooling in the hard-scrabble pea-patch of Casa Marston, it's all action all the time. And if your gunslinging skills have gone a little rusty, well, you die terrifyingly perhaps hilariously for your buddies on the couch, and then you die again, and you keep dying until you remember how Deadeye Mode works.

It's not just the gameplay that benefits from "Nightmare's" expansion status. The whole zombie scenario becomes way more intimate and scary when it takes place in what was once a non-zombified world, a world you've spent many dozens of hours getting to know. These are people

you've talked to, places you've been, vistas you've admired, and slaving hell to see those folks walking about as drooling ghouls in bile-stained calico, those towns burning and barricaded as the dead feast noisily in the bloody dust of the streets, that scenery blanketed by green mist that through with sickly crepuscular rays. The horror of zombie devastation is the horror of the familiar becoming monstrous, murderous. No game built from the ground up as a zombie title has really delivered that, since no such game has ever spent sixty hours showing you its non-rotting face.

What got me most excited as I played "Undead Nightmare" was the thought that maybe everybody will start ripping off this idea. I'm a big

fan of originality, or what passes for it, but this is a concept I heartily encourage every game developer to earthily dup and shamelessly steal. *Mass Effect*, *Pokemon*, *NBA Jam*, anything and everything should have a stand-alone zombie adventure add-on. I want Niko Tolic, armpit-dumping dumptrucks, to mow down undead bandits on the streets of Liberty City. I want a zombie Ned. It doesn't matter which one I take, zombie Khalibu, his glow hand off with a slapshot and then the band crawls across the ice and trips the other brother. I want zombie Dr. Kawashima to lick his mauling lips in anticipation as he tells me my "brain age."

So, yeah, I guess I'm into zombies again. Thanks for nothing, Rockstar. San Diego.



127 Hours

Nightly 6:50 & 9:10pm
Sat & Sun matinees 2:00pm

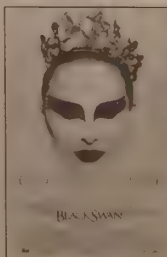
RATED: 14A (SCARY SCENES)
DISTURBING CONTENT



Made in Dagenham

Nightly 6:50 & 9:10pm
Sat & Sun matinees 2:00pm

RATED: 14A (DRUGS, LANGUAGE, SMOKING, SEX)



Black Swan

Nightly 6:50 & 9:10pm
Sat & Sun matinees 2:00pm

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friday

saturday

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday



IF YOU DON'T LIKE CROWDS, YOU CAN ALWAYS RING IN 2011 WITH RYAN AND RICK ON THE FLAT SOCIETY!

DECEMBER 30

son | DEADMAUS

If you like stellar light shows, fun music you can dance to and tiny rodents, we know exactly where you are going to be grooving this pre-New Year's Eve night! Listen up kiddies, this show is 6-10 years. Show Conference Centre, 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 31

clashes | AULI LANG

SYNE OUT with the Bid and in with the new! Bid a farewells to 2010, and open your arms nice and wide and give 2011 a great big hug! Check out page 8 to see what's going on this New Year's Eve. Happy New Year from all of us at SEE.

JANUARY 1

celebrate | SALUTE TO VIENNA

Celebrate and celebrate the New Year with lights and sounds inspired by Vienna's world famous New Year's Eve. Featuring the Strauss Symphony of Canada and a new cast of European singers and dancers. Winspear Centre, 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 2

haha | COMEDY NIGHT

Knock Knock Who's there? Banana Banana who? Banana, I'm gonna eat you! Everyone's got a joke, and here is your chance to standup amongst your peers and share it. The Droid, 9 p.m.

JANUARY 3

tutu | BLACK SWAN

This film lets you take a peek at the unforsaken real world of ballet, and it's not all pleasant and pink. True, it does consist of pinocette, chassé, and allegro, but it also consists of sex, drugs, and jealousy. Gaiety Theatre, 6:30 p.m.

JANUARY 4

off | JOE SATIRANI

Fathers look up your daughters, and get ready for the laugh tears to start flowing! Cold-play hits the stage—no wait our mistake, it's actually Joe Satirani playing Edmonton. So sue us, we always miss you Viva La Vida and if Cold Play Jubilee Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 5

yum | EAT N' BEATS

There is no better way to celebrate Wednesday than with a pile of wings! And you know what goes best with wings? Beer! Delicious! If you're still not convinced our friends at Bites even have in some sweet beats! Enjoy. Bites Bar & Grill, 6 p.m.

yes Music LISTINGS PROVIDED BY YEG LIVE

MUSIC

Thursday, Dec 30

Live Music

ACACIA DEWITT LOUNGE - Sarah McLachlan with David Berman, 10 p.m. - \$10 COVER

BLUES ON WHITE - Russell Jackson and George Taylor (All Blues) - 9 PM -

SHAW CONFERENCE CENTRE - Deadmau5 (01) - 7 PM - \$50 IN ADVANCE, SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY

SHERLOCK HOLMES: WEBB - Stan Gallant (Off Robinson) (01) - 9:30 PM -

WHITTEDORC PUNK THEATRE - CD Release (The Horrologies (All Blues) - 9 PM -

DIS/CLUB NIGHTS

BLUES ON WHITE - Russell Jackson and George Taylor (All Blues) - 9 PM -

THE COMMON - Groove in the Heart beat, Sonny Givens with Allot (01) - 9 PM -

Live Music

BLUES ON WHITE - Russell Jackson and George Taylor (All Blues) - 9 PM -

BRICK BAR & GRILL - NIVE Party (All Blues) - 9 PM -

CHICK CENTRE STAGE - Charlotte & Sally with Kaitia Pankaj and 10 Babes Part of New Year's Eve (01) - 8 PM -

CASINOS IN THE PARK - Moxing Wood Part of New Year's Eve (01) - 9 PM -

CASINO EDMONTON - The Run Bros. Vegas Cabaret Part of New Year's Eve (Adult Contemp. Big Band) - 9 PM - \$75 AT CLOTHING SERVICE

CASINO YELLOWHEAD - Columbia Star Part of New Year's Eve (Rock) - 9 PM - \$25 IN CUSTOMER SERVICE

CENTURY CASINO - Homegrown Suite Part of New Year's Eve (Rock) - 9 PM - \$25 IN ADVANCE, ON AT

CHICKEN SQUARE - Street Dance Part of New Year's Eve (Rock) - 9 PM - \$25 IN ADVANCE, ON AT

CITY HALL - Family New Year's Eve (Rock) - 9 PM - \$25 IN ADVANCE, ON AT

COW COUNTRY SALOON - New Year's Eve (Rock) - 9 PM - \$25 IN ADVANCE, ON AT

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DAY TRAVEL - Zero Cool with Kippie Reddies and The Party Machine (Jazz) - 9 PM - \$10 AT THE DOOR

DELTA ENTERTAINMENT SOUTH - 7th Annual Latin New Year's Eve (Rock) - 9 PM - \$10 AT THE DOOR

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DELTA ENTERTAINMENT SOUTH - 7th Annual Latin New Year's Eve (Rock) - 9 PM - \$10 AT THE DOOR

Party (All Blues) - 9 PM -

SPONTANEOUS LOUNGE - New Year's Eve (Rock) - 9 PM - \$10 IN ADVANCE, \$25 AT THE DOOR, SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY

STANLEY A. WILDER LIBRARY - Family New Year's Eve (Rock) - 9 PM - \$10 IN ADVANCE, \$25 AT THE DOOR, SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY

STARLINE - NIVE Party (All Blues) - 9 PM - \$10 IN ADVANCE, \$25 AT THE DOOR, SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY

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Live Music

BLUES ON WHITE - Russell Jackson and George Taylor (All Blues) - 9 PM -

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BLUES ON WHITE - Russell Jackson and George

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

Jack Black is back, and bigger than ever, after being shipwrecked on an island of tiny people. What better use is there for any tycoon than a Fooz ball table?

LITTLE FOCKERS

A painfully funny duo of moviestars has now become a two with a name like that, who could resist making it?

THE KING'S SPEECH

King George VI has to rid himself of his stammer so he can be worthy of his throne. I'm sure that a lack of speech would have been memorable as well.

TRUE GRIT

As in most westerns, vengeance must be had. But this time a sweet little girl will avenge her father with the help of some serious cowboys.

TRON: LEGACY

The long awaited sci-fi extravaganza is here! Let's hope that this sequel is as good today as the original was in '82.

THE FIGHTER

Another movie glorifying violence is legitimized by the fact that it's based on a true story. But surely those 18-24 year old males are going to enjoy the drama not the fighting.

HOW DO YOU KNOW

Reese Witherspoon's character Lisa has to return to normal life after her dreams of athletic prowess are crushed. Not to worry, she knows what real life is supposed to be like, she just doesn't know if she can handle it.

YOGI BEAR

Two silly bears have to save Jolly from No Nellystone means no picnic baskets to eat and we can't have that...an we?



SHOWTIMES December 31 ~ January 6, 2010

GAINEAU

8701 GAINEAU BL. 703.417-0728

BLACK SWAN 14A
Nightly 6:55 & 8:30 Sat & Sunday matinees 1:30
2:30pm. Adult content, not recommended for young teens.

PRINCESS 6
Nightly 6:55 & 8:30 Sat & Sunday matinees 1:30
2:30pm. Adult content, not recommended for young teens.

2010-11-27-11-28-11-29-12-01-12-02-12-03-12-04-12-05-12-06-12-07-12-08-12-09-12-10-12-11-12-12-13-12-14-12-15-12-16-12-17-12-18-12-19-12-20-12-21-12-22-12-23-12-24-12-25-12-26-12-27-12-28-12-29-12-30-12-31-1-01-1-02-1-03-1-04-1-05-1-06-1-07-1-08-1-09-1-10-1-11-1-12-1-13-1-14-1-15-1-16-1-17-1-18-1-19-1-20-1-21-1-22-1-23-1-24-1-25-1-26-1-27-1-28-1-29-1-30-1-31-2-01-2-02-2-03-2-04-2-05-2-06-2-07-2-08-2-09-2-10-2-11-2-12-2-13-2-14-2-15-2-16-2-17-2-18-2-19-2-20-2-21-2-22-2-23-2-24-2-25-2-26-2-27-2-28-2-29-2-30-2-31-3-01-3-02-3-03-3-04-3-05-3-06-3-07-3-08-3-09-3-10-3-11-3-12-3-13-3-14-3-15-3-16-3-17-3-18-3-19-3-20-3-21-3-22-3-23-3-24-3-25-3-26-3-27-3-28-3-29-3-30-3-31-4-01-4-02-4-03-4-04-4-05-4-06-4-07-4-08-4-09-4-10-4-11-4-12-4-13-4-14-4-15-4-16-4-17-4-18-4-19-4-20-4-21-4-22-4-23-4-24-4-25-4-26-4-27-4-28-4-29-4-30-5-01-5-02-5-03-5-04-5-05-5-06-5-07-5-08-5-09-5-10-5-11-5-12-5-13-5-14-5-15-5-16-5-17-5-18-5-19-5-20-5-21-5-22-5-23-5-24-5-25-5-26-5-27-5-28-5-29-5-30-5-31-6-01-6-02-6-03-6-04-6-05-6-06-6-07-6-08-6-09-6-10-6-11-6-12-6-13-6-14-6-15-6-16-6-17-6-18-6-19-6-20-6-21-6-22-6-23-6-24-6-25-6-26-6-27-6-28-6-29-6-30-7-01-7-02-7-03-7-04-7-05-7-06-7-07-7-08-7-09-7-10-7-11-7-12-7-13-7-14-7-15-7-16-7-17-7-18-7-19-7-20-7-21-7-22-7-23-7-24-7-25-7-26-7-27-7-28-7-29-7-30-7-31-8-01-8-02-8-03-8-04-8-05-8-06-8-07-8-08-8-09-8-10-8-11-8-12-8-13-8-14-8-15-8-16-8-17-8-18-8-19-8-20-8-21-8-22-8-23-8-24-8-25-8-26-8-27-8-28-8-29-8-30-8-31-9-01-9-02-9-03-9-04-9-05-9-06-9-07-9-08-9-09-9-10-9-11-9-12-9-13-9-14-9-15-9-16-9-17-9-18-9-19-9-20-9-21-9-22-9-23-9-24-9-25-9-26-9-27-9-28-9-29-9-30-10-01-10-02-10-03-10-04-10-05-10-06-10-07-10-08-10-09-10-10-10-11-10-12-10-13-10-14-10-15-10-16-10-17-10-18-10-19-10-20-10-21-10-22-10-23-10-24-10-25-10-26-10-27-10-28-10-29-10-30-10-31-11-01-11-02-11-03-11-04-11-05-11-06-11-07-11-08-11-09-11-10-11-11-11-12-11-13-11-14-11-15-11-16-11-17-11-18-11-19-11-20-11-21-11-22-11-23-11-24-11-25-11-26-11-27-11-28-11-29-11-30-12-01-12-02-12-03-12-04-12-05-12-06-12-07-12-08-12-09-12-10-12-11-12-12-12-13-12-14-12-15-12-16-12-17-12-18-12-19-12-20-12-21-12-22-12-23-12-24-12-25-12-26-12-27-12-28-12-29-12-30-12-31-1-01-1-02-1-03-1-04-1-05-1-06-1-07-1-08-1-09-1-10-1-11-1-12-1-13-1-14-1-15-1-16-1-17-1-18-1-19-1-20-1-21-1-22-1-23-1-24-1-25-1-26-1-27-1-28-1-29-1-30-1-31-2-01-2-02-2-03-2-04-2-05-2-06-2-07-2-08-2-09-2-10-2-11-2-12-2-13-2-14-2-15-2-16-2-17-2-18-2-19-2-20-2-21-2-22-2-23-2-24-2-25-2-26-2-27-2-28-2-29-2-30-2-31-3-01-3-02-3-03-3-04-3-05-3-06-3-07-3-08-3-09-3-10-3-11-3-12-3-13-3-14-3-15-3-16-3-17-3-18-3-19-3-20-3-21-3-22-3-23-3-24-3-25-3-26-3-27-3-28-3-29-3-30-3-31-4-01-4-02-4-03-4-04-4-05-4-06-4-07-4-08-4-09-4-10-4-11-4-12-4-13-4-14-4-15-4-16-4-17-4-18-4-19-4-20-4-21-4-22-4-23-4-24-4-25-4-26-4-27-4-28-4-29-4-30-5-01-5-02-5-03-5-04-5-05-5-06-5-07-5-08-5-09-5-10-5-11-5-12-5-13-5-14-5-15-5-16-5-17-5-18-5-19-5-20-5-21-5-22-5-23-5-24-5-25-5-26-5-27-5-28-5-29-5-30-5-31-6-01-6-02-6-03-6-04-6-05-6-06-6-07-6-08-6-09-6-10-6-11-6-12-6-13-6-14-6-15-6-16-6-17-6-18-6-19-6-20-6-21-6-22-6-23-6-24-6-25-6-26-6-27-6-28-6-29-6-30-7-01-7-02-7-03-7-04-7-05-7-06-7-07-7-08-7-09-7-10-7-11-7-12-7-13-7-14-7-15-7-16-7-17-7-18-7-19-7-20-7-21-7-22-7-23-7-24-7-25-7-26-7-27-7-28-7-29-7-30-7-31-8-01-8-02-8-03-8-04-8-05-8-06-8-07-8-08-8-09-8-10-8-11-8-12-8-13-8-14-8-15-8-16-8-17-8-18-8-19-8-20-8-21-8-22-8-23-8-24-8-25-8-26-8-27-8-28-8-29-8-30-8-31-9-01-9-02-9-03-9-04-9-05-9-06-9-07-9-08-9-09-9-10-9-11-9-12-9-13-9-14-9-15-9-16-9-17-9-18-9-19-9-20-9-21-9-22-9-23-9-24-9-25-9-26-9-27-9-28-9-29-9-30-10-01-10-02-10-03-10-04-10-05-10-06-10-07-10-08-10-09-10-10-10-11-10-12-10-13-10-14-10-15-10-16-10-17-10-18-10-19-10-20-10-21-10-22-10-23-10-24-10-25-10-26-10-27-10-28-10-29-10-30-10-31-11-01-11-02-11-03-11-04-11-05-11-06-11-07-11-08-11-09-11-10-11-11-11-12-11-13-11-14-11-15-11-16-11-17-11-18-11-19-11-20-11-21-11-22-11-23-11-24-11-25-11-26-11-27-11-28-11-29-11-30-12-01-12-02-12-03-12-04-12-05-12-06-12-07-12-08-12-09-12-10-12-11-12-12-12-13-12-14-12-15-12-16-12-17-12-18-12-19-12-20-12-21-12-22-12-23-12-24-12-25-12-26-12-27-12-28-12-29-12-30-12-31-1-01-1-02-1-03-1-04-1-05-1-06-1-07-1-08-1-09-1-10-1-11-1-12-1-13-1-14-1-15-1-16-1-17-1-18-1-19-1-20-1-21-1-22-1-23-1-24-1-25-1-26-1-27-1-28-1-29-1-30-1-31-2-01-2-02-2-03-2-04-2-05-2-06-2-07-2-08-2-09-2-10-2-11-2-12-2-13-2-14-2-15-2-16-2-17-2-18-2-19-2-20-2-21-2-22-2-23-2-24-2-25-2-26-2-27-2-28-2-29-2-30-2-31-3-01-3-02-3-03-3-04-3-05-3-06-3-07-3-08-3-09-3-10-3-11-3-12-3-13-3-14-3-15-3-16-3-17-3-18-3-19-3-20-3-21-3-22-3-23-3-24-3-25-3-26-3-27-3-28-3-29-3-30-3-31-4-01-4-02-4-03-4-04-4-05-4-06-4-07-4-08-4-09-4-10-4-11-4-12-4-13-4-14-4-15-4-16-4-17-4-18-4-19-4-20-4-21-4-22-4-23-4-24-4-25-4-26-4-27-4-28-4-29-4-30-5-01-5-02-5-03-5-04-5-05-5-06-5-07-5-08-5-09-5-10-5-11-5-12-5-13-5-14-5-15-5-16-5-17-5-18-5-19-5-20-5-21-5-22-5-23-5-24-5-25-5-26-5-27-5-28-5-29-5-30-5-31-6-01-6-02-6-03-6-04-6-05-6-06-6-07-6-08-6-09-6-10-6-11-6-12-6-13-6-14-6-15-6-16-6-17-6-18-6-19-6-20-6-21-6-22-6-23-6-24-6-25-6-26-6-27-6-28-6-29-6-30-7-01-7-02-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CRUISIN' THE COSMOS



CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 - JAN. 19)

There's one way you can make sure that you'll hop all the way to the mountaintop in 2011 — compromise and sacrifice. They may be dirty words to you right now, but that shouldn't get your goat. In fact, don't dirty words get your goat juices runnin' sometimes?

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18)

If you really want to know why you're lacking a little in the love department lately, then take some time to think about it (seeing as thinking's what you Aquarians do best). Specifically, think about this in 2011: If you can't give yourself to anyone, why would anyone give themselves to you?

PISCES (FEB. 19 - MARCH 20)

The old folks always say pride comes before a fall, probably because if your nose is too far in the air you can't see where the hell you're going. This coming year, make sure you keep your eyes on your feet instead of the clouds, or else you'll be gettin' an even closer look at the dirt on the ground!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19)

What gives? It's not even the New Year yet and the world is already rockin' with poodles of opportunities a-knockin'. You should be happy as a brand new puppy, but you just can't shake the feeling that you don't want to send you reeling. Well, it's just your inner lamb being a bitch, so stick with your plans and don't ditch!

TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20)

In 2011 it's of utmost importance you make amends with your friends. You need 'em as much as they need you since you can help keep each others' heads from explodin' and your souls from corrodin'. Although, you may find yourself to be the smartest shopper in the mall, what does that matter if you have no friends 'cause you've 'outsmarted' them all?

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20)

Temptation is going to cause you trouble in 2011 and there's no way you'll be able to turn away. Sure, it'll tear apart your world and throw you headlong into the abyss, but hey, it's the 21st century so that's gonna happen on a daily basis. Succumb or resist, at least one of your heads is smart enough to know there's a lesson to be learned in there somewhere!

CANCER (JUNE 21 - JULY 22)

Remember in 2011 that even when it looks like you've lost everything, there's always love. You may not feel that way at the moment, but

just keep watering that tiny seed and eventually it will grow into something that'll feed you not only for droughts from this year's strife, but for the rest of your life!

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 22)

You may think that in order to get what you want, you're going to have to take matters into your own hands and make a strong stand. Normally that would be true for folk like you, but in 2011 it's best you just wait for things to resolve themselves. There are forces at work in the background that just can't be pushed around!

VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22)

In the coming year, you'll feel a spiritual need that'll make you shake to your core when you feel you have to transcend this realm's rigid role like never before. Well, magic and drugs are for the slow-minded slugs — only the understanding of unconditional love will help you settle this score!

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 - OCT. 22)

Use the big burst of energy you're feeling at the start of the year to work your way to your ultimate goal. It's a long and rocky road, but that's OK 'cause you've got yourself a little insurance policy. Call it luck or an angel in heaven, but something's gonna be lookin' out for you in 2011, so now's the time to take those chances!

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 - NOV. 21)

In 2011 you'll wanna make certain before you use your stinger that it's not yourself you'll be hurtin'. Rules are rules or so they say, but you're not the only one who sets 'em up that way. Your codes of practice and rules of conduct may be OK, but they don't mean much if you don't have any friends, do they?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 - DEC. 21)

You know that puzzle you've been working on for ages? The one whose pieces you've been shuffling around again and again tryin' to get 'em all to fit in? Well, this is the year where you'll finally get to see what the finished product actually looks like when the picture develops like a Polaroid in front of your eyes. Expect a very pleasant surprise!

SAVAGE (cont'd from p. 22)

change. I want to be having sex with someone else. One girl is never going to be enough to make me happy.

I have asked her about the possibility of having a threesome. She said she wouldn't go for that, not MMF or FFM, and she is utterly against it and always will be. But I NEED more. Sad fact. What do I do?

Coming Up More

You could stick it out, I suppose, in the hopes that true love has the opposite effect on your girlfriend than it did on NGE here, i.e., that once your girlfriend is crazy for you, CUM, she'll want to fuck shitloads of other people and she'll give you the go-ahead to do the same. The odds of that happening, however, are close enough to nonexistent that I would be stripped of my professional accreditation if I advised you to live in hope.

Look, CUM, you're 21 and you're not ready to settle down — or settle for one person — not yet anyway, maybe not ever. However lovely this girl is,

however pleasant your evenings together are, you're not sexually compatible. There would be forever divorces and less heartbreak if people were encouraged to view sexual incompatibility as the deal breaker it inevitably becomes over time.

Dump the nice girl, be single, fuck around, and keep your eyes peeled for a girl who wants what you want, change and all.

My friend — I swear, I actually mean my friend — has been "not-dating" his "notboyfriend" since August. They see each other on an almost daily basis and have even had a conversation about exclusivity. The "notboyfriend" won't fuck my friend! What's even weirder is that they started dating. What should my friend do? He would like to have sex with the "notboyfriend" since it was awesome the first run.

Concerned Lesbian

It's possible that your friend's not-

boyfriend seroconverted sometime after their fuck-buddy arrangement expired and before they started dating, and the notboyfriend wants to disclose his new HIV status before they start fucking again and is having a hard time working up the nerve.

Or it could be that your friend's notboyfriend isn't into your friend sexually but depends on his emotional support and doesn't want to have to share him, or compete for his non-sexual attentions, with a real, live, honest-to-God boyfriend.

Here's what your friend should do: tell the notboyfriend that, while he values the emotional intimacy they share, he's looking for sexual intimacy, too. If there's some reason why they're not fucking, he wants to know what it is. If there's no reason, he wants to make it clear that there will be no "exclusivity" — and no more "notdating" — until they're monofucking.

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His Hot Fantasies Leave Her Feeling Cold



**SAVAGE LOVE: DAN SAVAGE
GIRLFRIEND LOSES
INTEREST IN KINKY TALK,
BUT HER BOYFRIEND CAN'T
GIVE UP THE HABIT**

I really need some help and comfort. I am a straight 25-year-old woman, and I've been dating my boyfriend for four years. I have never been the romantic type, until I met him. At the beginning, we were purely sexual. We love role-playing, and we always came up with erotic fantasies of me being fucked and used by multiple men, or some fantasy where others were involved. It was hot to me until I fell in love with him. Now the only thing that turns me on is him. Even though he says he loves me, I cannot say he gets turned on by thinking of only me. We still continue these fantasies, but lately I'm seeing that every single

time we are intimate, he always talks about things he wants other men (and women) to do to me or what he wants to do with others while I'm around. He never talks about a hot fantasy that involves only him and me. I drew the line when he started bringing my best friend into our role-playing. When I told him I would prefer if he not bring her into it, he ignored me and talked about her anyway. The last time I brought it up, he said he won't tell me his fantasies anymore and that he'll just tell me what I want to hear. He also said that by asking him to stop thinking of others, I am demeaning him and his sexuality. I have done everything I can to please him. I have done things sexually that I swore I would never do because I trusted him. I guess my question is, am I demeaning him when I ask him to not bring up others in our role-playing every time we're intimate? It wouldn't bother me if it were once in a while. I wind up feeling unattractive and never good enough. What can I do to make him want only me?

Not Good Enough

Nothing.

He's never gonna want just you and only you, NGE. All that crazy, groupy, kinky shit that turned him on when you first got together — the shit that turned you on before you fell in love with him — still turns him on and will always turn him on.

Fantasies wind up on your partner's no-fly list — isn't that a huge disincentive to fall in love? That said, NGE, your boyfriend should, at the very least, mix it the fuck up. Even if you were into groups — or still into groups, or still into thoughts of groups — hearing about

his feelings for you, how hot he thinks your body is, etc. etc. Finally, NGE, I want to emphasize again that there's nothing you can do to make him want you and only you. He is who he is, he's turned on by what turns him on, and you know that when you fell in love with him

**UM ... SHOULDN'T FALLING IN LOVE, AND THE DEEPENING
FEELINGS OF TRUST AND SECURITY THAT GO ALONG WITH THAT,
OPEN A COUPLE UP TO NEW POSSIBILITIES, NEW HORIZONS,
NEW SEXUAL ADVENTURES?**

Now, I know you're not doing it on purpose, NGE, and this is just how you feel, and feelings are sacrosanct 'il' mysteries and there's nothing you can do about them, but I've never understood people who are up for anything with someone they're into — dirty talk, crazy sex, groups (real or imagined) — up until the moment they fall in love with that person. Um ... shouldn't falling in love, and the deepening feelings of trust and security that go along with that, open a couple up to new possibilities, new horizons, new sexual adventures? And if falling in love with someone means the end of sexual adventure and fantasy and role-play — if falling in love means previously acceptable

groups each and every time you fuck would get pretty fucking tedious after four fucking years. And pressing ahead with annoying fantasies about specific people — your best friend, your mom, your boss — after you've asked him to stop is an asshole move. If he needs dirty talk to get off, he should find new dirty scenarios to explore, including some that involve you and only you, save the group fantasies for "once in a while," and leave your best friend out of it. As for feeling unattractive, you should make him aware of your insecurities — if you haven't already — and he should be considerate enough to come through with regular reassurances about your attractiveness.

You have neither the right nor the power to reach into his erotic imagination and yank out the bits that conflict with your ideas of what sex is or should be when two people are in love. I wouldn't go so far as to say that your attitude is demeaning, though. It's more delusional, perhaps, with a sprinkling of irrational jimmies. But not demeaning.

I am a 21-year-old male in a loving and committed relationship. The sex is great; the evenings together are great. It's a perfectly happy relationship except for this one thing: I can't get enough

SAVAGE cont'd on p. 21.

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SENOR CHOLO and DJ knuckleboom. Ring in
the New Year with dance-making,
booty-shaking, good times at the Artery.
\$12 in advance at theartery.ca or \$15 at the door.

SATURDAY
JANUARY
22

Tatam Reeves CD release party
CD release for the album Ghost, featuring
special guest Darryl Matthews
Doors at 8:00pm.
Cover is \$10 at the door

SUNDAY
JANUARY
23

GYPSY JAZZ ROUNDUP
Cam Neufeld is leading Gypsy Jazz musicians
in celebrating Django's 101st birthday.
Doors at 6:30pm.
Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door.

JANUARY
27 & 28

Savage/Love and Tougues
"Tougues" directed by Taylor Chadwick and
"Savage/Love" directed by Matt Slingsby.
Doors at 6:30. Tickets \$15 at the door.

Bonjour hiver...



Retail Locations:

Edmonton
10750 82 Ave.
(East of 100th St. N.W.)
Edmonton, AB T6E 2A8
Tel. (780) 409-8505

Edmonton—West Edmonton Mall
8852 170 St. N.W.
(2nd Fl. by Old Navy)
Edmonton, AB T5T 3J7
Tel. (780) 530-2142

Calgary
1429 17th Ave. S.W.
(Corner 14th St. S.W.)
Calgary, AB T2T 0C6
Tel. (403) 410-7450

Calgary—Market Mall
3525 Shaganappi Trail N.W.
(Next to Search)
Calgary, AB T3A 0E2
Tel. (403) 457-2763

Calgary—Sunnyside
130 10th St.
(North of Kensington Rd. N.W.)
Calgary, AB T2H 1V3
Tel. (403) 457-3457

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